

of whom suffer from not only mental health issues but also homelessness, substance abuse disorders, and HIV/AIDS—a notable increase from the first residency they established in 1979 which housed only 20 clients.

Dr. Itzkowitz was also instrumental in creating The Bridge's Vocational and Job Training Services, a key element of rehabilitation that had long been neglected. Building on Dr. Itzkowitz's responsive approach to treatment; today, The Bridge offers mental health and substance abuse treatment, housing, vocational training, and job placement, healthcare, education and creative arts therapies. All of these afford countless clients help, hope, and opportunities to enjoy healthier and more fulfilling lives.

In addition to his long history of commitment to and achievement within the social services field, Dr. Itzkowitz has been a devoted husband to his wife, Phyllis, and father to his sons, David and Jake. Jake continues his father's legacy of service as Chief of Staff for New York City Councilwoman Margaret Chin.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Murray Itzkowitz on his much deserved 2010 Adaptive Design Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH—GET SEIZURE SMART!

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today and join the Epilepsy Foundation in calling for Americans to Get Seizure Smart! this November as part of National Epilepsy Awareness Month. More than three million American families are affected by epilepsy—over 60,000 Missourians have been diagnosed with epilepsy or reoccurring seizures.

Epilepsy Foundation staff and volunteers are distributing the Get Seizure Smart! Quiz across the country this month to raise awareness. By taking the online quiz at www.GetSeizureSmart.org, Americans can learn about the condition and how to treat it.

Epilepsy awareness is critically important for public servants. Because first responders are often called when someone is having a seizure, it's critical they have good information on which to act.

I commend the Epilepsy Foundation for their 40-year campaign to raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with this condition. I encourage my colleagues to learn more about epilepsy and to connect with the Epilepsy Foundation in their community.

HONORING KEVIN RIDLEY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Ridley on the occasion of his retirement after more than 40 years of service to our Nation and his community.

While I have no doubt Kevin has many new exciting chapters left to write in his life, I take this moment to commemorate his achievements of the last 4 decades.

Kevin Ridley is the son of an Air Force colonel and learned early in life the meaning of commitment to country and family. Following in his father's footsteps, Kevin enlisted in the Air Force in late 1968, after graduating high school in Tokyo, Japan.

Trained as a weapons loader for A-7 and F-100 jet fighters, Kevin was stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona for 2 years before doing a tour of duty during the Vietnam War. While in Vietnam during 1971 and into 1972, he saw time in both Saigon and Da Nang.

Following his honorable discharge from the Air Force later in 1972, Kevin continued to serve our Nation as a member of the National Guard, compiling a remarkable 26 years of military service. In the National Guard, he served as a full-time civilian weapons technician and was stationed for 17 years at Otis Air Force Base in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

I know that while Kevin Ridley possesses a fierce determination to excel, he is also a humble man, much like many of our Nation's military personnel. He would never seek to tout his own accomplishments. However, I am proud to tell you that Kevin consistently stood out during his military service, accumulating 15 decorations and awards during the Vietnam War and in his time with the Air Force Reserve and National Guard.

Beginning in 1989, and continuing through his retirement in December of this year, Kevin has worked for the Department of Defense's Defense Contract Administration Services as a plant representative with Raytheon Corporation in Massachusetts. In that capacity, he has continued his service to military defense efforts and his deep commitment to the security of the United States. While with the Defense Contract Administration Services, he has contributed his expertise to over 30 defense programs. He also worked on a program near and dear to the State of Florida—NASA's Space Station modules program.

Most importantly, Kevin is a dedicated family man. He is a loving spouse to Andrea Ridley and father of two wonderful children. Andrea is an 8th grade math teacher at Franklin Middle School, his daughter Alexandra is currently a freshmen at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, and his son Phillip is a sophomore in high school in Medfield, Massachusetts.

I'm sure that his friends and family would agree that his record of excellence, bravery, and dedication is a living testament to a life well lived, and proof that the American dream is alive and well.

I offer my deepest gratitude to Kevin Ridley for his contributions to the fabric of this nation and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Congratulations, Kevin.

IN HONOR OF THE EAST RIVER DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the East River Develop-

ment Alliance, a not-for-profit organization that has made extraordinary contributions to the economic and civic life of the residents of underserved communities in western Queens. This month, the East River Development Alliance (ERDA) is celebrating its Sixth Anniversary Fundraiser and Celebration at the Ace Hotel in Manhattan.

Under the able stewardship of the Bishop Mitchell Taylor, the East River Development Alliance helps residents of New York City Housing Authority complexes and other New Yorkers with limited income achieve economic security and self-empowerment through employment, financial counseling and education, college access and community revitalization initiatives. ERDA has developed a range of programs to help the more than 20,000 residents of public housing in its catchment area to achieve economic stability and mobility, and ensure that these neighborhoods have access to critical goods and services.

In the last year alone, the Alliance opened the ERDA Federal Credit Union—the first new credit union chartered in New York City in a decade; helped more than 150 low-income New Yorkers find good jobs. As New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg noted in his State of the City Address earlier this year, a big impact can be achieved by “credit unions serving public housing residents, like the one Bishop Taylor is opening in Long Island City this spring,” going on to praise him as “one banker who truly is doing God's work.” ERDA has also helped more than 500 individuals build savings and reduce debt, is sending a cohort of high school seniors to college—nearly all of whom are the first in their families to obtain a higher education.

At its Sixth Anniversary Event, the East River Development Alliance is honoring three noteworthy community leaders: Matthew Bishop, American Business Editor and New York Bureau Chief of The Economist magazine and the author of Philanthrocapitalism; John Rhea, Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority; and Diana Taylor, Managing Director of the Wolfensohn & Company, LLC and former New York State Superintendent of Banking in the administration of Governor George Pataki. All are being honored for their outstanding efforts to improve the lives of their fellow New Yorkers and the economic vitality of our communities.

Congratulations to Bishop Taylor and the East River Development Alliance on another successful year in pursuing its vital mission of ensuring public housing communities are neighborhoods of great opportunities. Madam Speaker, I salute the work of the East River Development Alliance and I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding work of ERDA and its 2010 honorees for their many contributions to the civic and spiritual life of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTAL USA CEO BOB BROWNING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding record of outgoing Austal USA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Bob